MONTEREY NEWS

March 2000
VOLUME XXX · Number 3

The Town

Great Barrington Rescue Aid: The Monterey Fire and Police Departments sent several of their members to help in the search for Shirley Palmer in Great Barrington in the last week of January. The fire department sent help on many of the days of the search, and the police department sent officers when there was help to spare. An important Monterey contribution to the search was the fire department's ice boat, which has the capability to run on ice as well as water. Thank you to all who gave your time, energy, and support during this time of tragedy.

© Glynis Oliver

Early March on Gould Road

County Mutual Aid Agreement for Police Solidified: The Berkshire County Police Chiefs Association is standardizing the mutual aid agreement between all of the towns in the county. Presently, Monterey has a mutual aid agreement with Great Barrington, Egremont, and Sheffield, which allows the police departments in those towns to share resources and personnel.

The new agreement will remain the same for these towns, but will be standardized for the rest of the towns in the county. It also allows the Monterey police to call on Special Response Teams from Pittsfield or North Adams for serious incidents such as hostage situations. Presently, Monterey would need to call a State Special Response Team, which might need to come from Springfield, or even as far away as Boston. The availability of the teams from Pittsfield and North Adams could cut response time by as much as a third in situations where time is often of the essence. The new mutual aid agreement has been approved by all of the towns in the county, and only needs to be signed by those towns before it will go into effect.

Skating Rink Events: The Park Commission has announced the March hours for the Monterey ice skating rink, as follows:

Monday–Friday
8 a.m.–3 p.m.: Public Skating
3 p.m.–5 p.m.: Public Skating/ Kids' Hockey
Tuesday and Friday
7 p.m.: Men's Hockey
Saturday
8 a.m.–12 noon: Kids' Hockey
12 noon–3 p.m.: Public Skating
3 p.m.–5 p.m.: Hockey
5 p.m.–7 p.m.: Ice Making
7 p.m.–9 p.m.: Family Skating
Sunday
9 a.m.–12 noon: Men's Hockey
12 noon–3 p.m.: Public Skating
3 p.m.–5 p.m.: Hockey

In addition, the Park Commission is planning a family skating party for Saturday, March 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be music, and sweets, hot chocolate, and Ron's not-to-be-missed hot mulled cider will be served. Come out and enjoy the fun!

Please remember that all rink hours and events are weather dependent.

Consultant Joe Kellogg's Advice Solicited: Joseph Kellogg, former Town Manager of Great Barrington and Lenox, attended a Monterey Select Board meeting in early February. Kellogg was called on to consult with the Select Board about the transfer station and the renovation of Town Hall. Regarding the Town Hall, Muriel Lazzarini, Chair of the Select Board, said that Kellogg "has been called on and is helping us iron out some wrinkles on the barrier removal grant." The $495,000 grant, awarded to the Town after a resubmission last year, is once again being questioned by the State. Kellogg's assistance has been appreciated, and we hope to continue working with him in the future.

Special Town Meeting: A Special Town Meeting has been announced for Friday, March 24, at 7 p.m. It will be held at the Firehouse. The agenda includes approving new wording of sign bylaws approved at last year's Town Meeting, but called into question by the State, discussion and approval of dog bylaws, and discussion of requirements to have house numbers visible from the road. Also on the agenda are discussions of the transfer station, repairs to Bidwell Park Road, and the inclusion of fines in the town bylaws.

Dog Licenses and Rabies Clinic: Beginning in March, Monterey residents are encouraged to acquire licenses for their dogs. This can be done at the Town Hall on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. On March 11, there will be a rabies clinic at the Firehouse from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. This clinic will cover both dogs and cats, and is encouraged for all pet owners. The cost per shot is $9.00, and the proceeds will benefit the Monterey Fire Company Auxiliary.

Community Policing Grant: In December, the Monterey Police Department was awarded a $16,000 grant to fund a year of community policing. Most of this money will be used to put extra officers on the street during the weekends. Other programs that will be funded by the grant include a crime prevention training for police officers, an automobile identification program, and the purchase of a handheld rechargeable radar gun. Education programs for town citizens are being anticipated, and could include seminars on home security, children and bikes, and issues on aging. The police department is waiting for the results from the town survey to plan these events further. If you have suggestions for a program that you would like to attend, please contact the police department.

New Town News Reporter: As of this writing Melissa Hochstetler is taking over the work of reporting on the Town for the *Monterey News*. Melissa works at Gould Farm.

Amy B. Goldfarb would like to express her appreciation to Will and Glynis, Peter, Fred, and Muriel, and Bonnie and Judy for all their help and flexibility during the past year. "I really learned a lot and began to feel like a Montereyan in the past year. I don't plan to lose these connections just because my work at the Farm precludes me spending the time on doing the news reporting," says Amy.

— Melissa Hochstetler

The editor thanks Amy for her good work over the last year. In spite of her demanding schedule at Gould Farm, she always managed to come through with a timely and perspicuous article.

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MONTEREY NEWS

Sponsored by Monterey United Church of Christ

VOLUME 1. Published monthly. MARCH 24, 1970

WHY A MONTEREY NEWSPAPER? A number of persons in the Monterey Church felt that the town suffered because we didn't have a way to communicate with each other. This media is an attempt to fill that gap. The Parish Council recommended that finances to support the paper for 1970 be provided.

Several principles are to guide its publication. It is to serve the whole community. It is to be available for all organizations, and to encourage a creative spirit in the community.

It is the nature of infant ventures to stumble. We hope to learn by our mistakes, and we gladly welcome ideas, suggestions, yes, and criticisms. We need assistance if we are to grow. So as we venture into the communication gap, we look for your views, that we may serve you better.

Members of the Staff:

Editor, Marie A. Seifert
Asst. Editor, Gertrude Gould
Business Manager, Virgil V. Brallier
Church Activities, Patricia Andrus
Stella Howes
Gould Farm, Wadsworth Mullen
Gourmet Corner, Betty Carlson
Ladies Aid, Stella Howes
Monterey Grange, Florence Brown
Monterey Historical Society, Sally Fijux
Monterey Library, Anne Marie Makuc
Monterey Youth Group, Donna Brallier
Our Schools, Margaret Vorck
Ruth Champigny
Philergians, Marie Brallier
Printing, Ann Van Horn
Sermonettes, Local Clergymen
The Art Corner, Edith Wilson
The Boy Scouts, Douglas Lyman
The Girl Scouts, Mary Thorn
The Trading Post, Nancy L'Hommedieu
Town Government, The Selectmen
Town News, Nancy L'Hommedieu
Yesterday, Marie Seifert

The masthead, statement of purpose, and staff from the first issue of the ***Monterey News***

Monterey News Plans 30th Anniversary Celebration for March 18

As the masthead above attests, this is the thirtieth anniversary issue of the *Monterey News*. Not bad for a small community paper that depends almost entirely for its content on unsolicited and unpaid submissions from you, our neighbors and readers.

To celebrate this happy ocasion, the Board of Directors and staff of the *News* is planning an entertaining evening of reading, remembering, reliving, and maybe even reinventing articles, stories, and poems from past issues of the *News*.

So mark your calendars now. The date is Saturday, March 18, time 7 p.m., the venue the Monterey Meeting House. A reception with refreshments will follow and allow for rebuttal from those reactionaries who have a different version of the way things were.

Some of the writers and poets who have written for the *News* will read from their works, and others will remember and read the words of those no longer with us. And rumor has it that some of the past editors, such as the redoubtable Ellen Pearson and the ever erudite David McAllester, will regale us with lore of yore.

A lot of quality work has appeared in the *News* over the years. Please join us on March 18 as we wander around in the attic and rediscover forgotten treasures and pleasures.

— Will Marsh

Democratic Caucus

A Democratic Town Committee Caucus will be held on March 10, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate candidates for the upcoming Town election.

The following Town offices will be up for reelection:

Board of Appeals: one member
Board of Assessors: one member
Cemetery Committee: one member
Finance Committee: one member
Library Trustees: two members
Moderator
Park Commission: one member
Planning Board: one member
Select Board: one member
Town Clerk
Tree Warden

All registered Democrats are invited to attend. Anyone interested in running for any of these offices is welcome to contact Charles Ferris at 528-8900 (office) or 528-0732 (home) or Gary Shaw.

— Democratic Town Committee

Republican Caucus

The Republican Town Committee of Monterey will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, at the Monterey Firehouse to discuss and select candidates for election to the various town offices. Other business of the committee will also be discussed.

The Republican Caucus will follow at 7:30 p.m. The Caucus will vote to determine which candidates will appear on the ballot at the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2000.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted. Those wishing to run for any office of the town to be voted on at the annual election are encouraged to send a letter to the chairman of the Republican Town Committe, Mark Makuc.

The caucus will be held and is called under the provisions of Chapter 53 of the General Laws. All citizens of Monterey *who are qualified voters and members of the Republican Party,* are urged to attend their caucus.

— Republican Town Committee

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From the Town Clerk

Elections, Registering to Vote, and Other Town Business

Census News: A big thank you to all those who have sent in their Street-list Census materials as required by Massachusetts law for all of us (two-thirds were returned by mid-February). For those who haven't yet sent theirs back, please do so. For those who never got a local census form in the mail, please call the Town Clerk at 528-5175 so I can get one to you. This census is not the Federal Census for the year 2000. That census is still ahead. What this street-listing does, aside from meeting the terms of state law, is to give the Town a reliable sense of who is living where and who is a year-round resident, including renters. This may be as important as any other function because the list is shared on a need-to-know basis with the Police and Fire Company. Your phone number is not going into the state databank, and the public record format for our street-list makes it difficult for mass mailers to reach you through us.

The Secretary of State will, if you send in your street-list form, have sufficient material in the state computer to challenge the Federal Census if we are once again undercounted (which has been common in the past). Remember, if we are undercounted, and other Towns are undercounted, then before long we lose a real right: a seat in the House of Representatives. In turn this means we would be in an even bigger Representative Dis-

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

trict, with a smaller voice than we have now. Please send in your Federal Census form when it comes to you. If you don't get one when others do, please let me know, and please let the Federal Census Office know you have not gotten one.

Presidential Primary: The presidential primary is upcoming on Tuesday, March 7, 2000, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Firehouse, at 411 Main Road. You need to know that Massachusetts is one of the "open" primary states. This means that all persons registered as Independents, called "Unenrolled" in State-speak, can vote. It also means, that because it is a presidential primary, it is the one time in four years that you have to re-unenroll right after you vote, where you vote (the Firehouse), on Election Day.

Special news for Independents: We will have a form available at the central desk (Town Clerk's station) at the polls, where you can reinstitute your status as an Independent after voting your ballot from one or the other party. If you don't reinstitute your status as an Independent, you are automatically enrolled in the political party whose ballot you just voted. The legislature has so far refused to allow us to simply keep your status as an Independent constant through every election (we have gotten changes in this procedure for all primaries except the presidential primary).

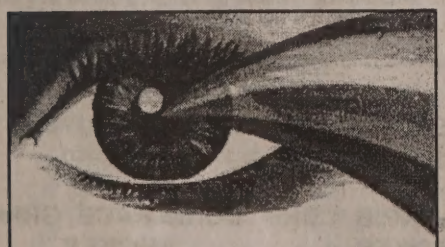
Dog Tags: Sometime in February, you will have received a Warrant for a Special Town Meeting regarding Animal Control Bylaws. It is necessary for the Town to take this function over from what had previously been a County function before the current dog tags expire on March 31. It would really help us, if you have not yet tagged your dog, for you to do so for this current year, which ends March 31. Please remember that this is not a "one time only" tagging. You must renew every year and provide current vaccination papers (if I don't have them on file). The current year's costs are: $4 spayed or neutered; $10 for male or female; $20 for kennel licenses. We will be holding a Rabies Clinic the afternoon of March 11 in the Firehouse, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for both dogs and cats (which must also have current vaccination under Massachusetts law). This would be a good time to tag your dog for the current year if you haven't already done so, and a good time to be prepared with vaccination materials for next year's tags. (Sorry: no specials in a two-for, just self-knowledge that you have done the right thing for the current year).

Also in March: Town Caucuses of the Republican and Democratic parties will be held in early March to nominate candidates for town offices up for election this year. The dates and times of the meetings are given elsewhere in this issue of the *News*. If you prefer to run for one of the offices on nomination papers (as an Independent), you have until March 15 to pick up papers from this office (528-5175, or on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30). These will have to be returned with 25 signatures of voters registered in Monterey by 5:00 p.m. on March 17. Many incumbents are likely to run for reelection, as you know. Up for election are the following offices: Board of Appeals (5-year term; incumbent, Cynthia M. Weber); Board of Assessors (3-year term; incumbent, Gary Shaw); Cemetery Committee (3-year term; incumbent, Linda E. Thorpe); Finance Committee (3-year term; incumbent, Daniel Moriarty); Library Trustees (2 officers for 3-year terms; incumbents, Donna Trumbull and John M. Higgins, who is stepping down); Moderator (1-year term; incumbent, Mark J.J. Makuc); Park Commission (3-year term; incumbent, Ron McMahon); Planning Board (5-year term; incumbent, Gerry Shapiro); Select Board (3-year term; incumbent, Muriel L. Lazzarini); Town Clerk (3-year term; incumbent, Barbara B. Swann); and Tree Warden (1-year term; incumbent, Roger C. Tryon).

Other deadlines: The deadline to register to vote in the Annual Town Meeting and Election (held this year on May 6) is April 15. This should not be difficult to remember since, for a change, the deadline is around the time you will be turning in federal and state tax forms.

Please note that the Town Clerk is required to register all businesses in Town that do not have the name of the person running the business as part of the business name. If you are in business and do not have your own name as part of the business name, please check with the Clerk to see if your Business License has been recorded or has expired, or if you once had a Business License and have not renewed it recently.

— Barbara B. Swann, Town Clerk



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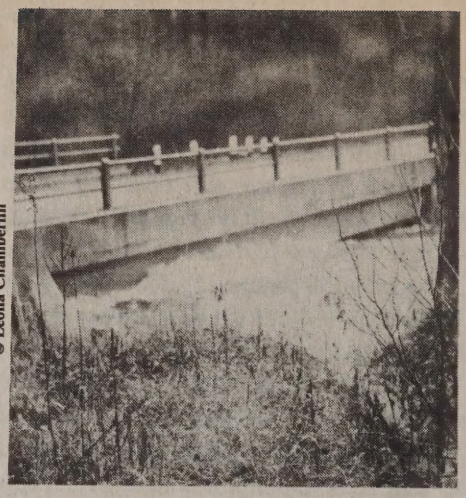
McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Applications

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is pleased to announce that the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for this year. Graduating high school seniors or undergraduate students who have been residents of Monterey for at least the last two years of high school are eligible to apply. Previous winners of the scholarship are also invited to reapply for continued support if they are enrolled in a continuing higher education program.

Scholarships awarded usually range from $2,000 to $7,500. Applicants must demonstrate a combination of academic achievement, community service, the desire to achieve academic and life goals, and financial need.

Application forms are available at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (800-969-2823), from high school guidance offices, and at the Monterey Town Hall. Completed applications must be received at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation office by **March 15, 2000.**



© Leona Chamberlin

January 1949 flood, River Road bridge

Dahoney Scholarship Applications Invited

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation announces that the Honorable James P. Dahoney Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for this year. Preference will be given to graduating seniors from Monument Mountain Regional High School, Mount Everett Regional High School, Lee High School, or Lenox Memorial High School.

There will be one $1,000 scholarship awarded this year. Applicants must be entering their first year of a two- or four-year college or university.

Application forms are available at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (800-969-2823) and from high school guidance offices. Completed applications must be received at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation office by **April 1, 2000.**

Janet's Fund Awards Over $38,000 in Grants

Sixteen initiatives recently received grants totaling $38,600 from Janet's Fund, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF). Janet's Fund supports excellence in education in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The fund was established in 1997 in memory of Janet Thieriot, a former student at Mount Everett High School. Students, school staff, teachers, and community members submit proposals for educational enrichment initiatives within the district's schools. With recommendations from an advisory committee, the BTCF reviewed applications and made the awards just before Christmas.

The newly established Travel Club at Mount Everett was awarded $1,000 to help expand the program into the local community through mailings and fund-raisers. The goal is to involve both students and community members on several one-day trips throughout the Northeast, with the hope of also offering an extended trip overseas.

The Peer Resources class, to be held this spring, received $1,500 toward the cost of student materials associated with community outreach programs and school improvement activities, such as the Big/Little Eagle program.

The Mount Everett Middle School Social Studies/Language Arts Department, collaborating with the Middle School Alternative Program, was granted $2,400 to purchase four canoes. A previous Janet's Fund grant provided six ca-

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noes and a trailer last year. The canoes are used for canoe field trips and for the summer camp program at the school.

The Middle School Alternative Program (MAP) was awarded $4,800 to build a high ropes course at the school, which will compliment the existing low ropes course there. Rope courses are used to build self-confidence, encourage teamwork, and teach problem solving skills for at-risk students.

Mount Everett Middle School received $1,500 to participate in the annual Lego Robotics Competition. Students in grades 5 to 8 work in teams to construct a computer-operated robot for a regional contest. The grant will help offset the cost of the robot sets.

The Drama Department at Mount Everett High School was granted $4,000 to help underwrite three separate theater productions for the 1999-2000 school year. One Shakespearean play and two musicals are planned.

A grant of $4,000 was awarded to the school district for a dance residency program from Jacob's Pillow for grades K–12. In addition, an African dance and drumming group will visit the second grade classes for one day.

Flying Cloud Institute in New Marlboro received $1,500 to offer three arts and science enrichment programs for grades 1 to 8 during the spring of 2000. The workshops will be held at the school on early dismissal days.

Undermountain Elementary School was awarded a $2,500 grant for science materials and equipment for the third and fourth grades. In addition, an astronomer from Amherst College will visit the school in May 2000.

The Mount Everett baseball team received $1,645 to purchase a pitching machine for practice sessions, replacing their outdated, inefficient machine.

The library at Undermountain Elementary School was awarded $2,000 to help update the library automation software. The new Windows-based program will increase the effectiveness of the library search system and allow collaborations between the libraries in the different schools and the public library in Sheffield.

The photography class at Mount Everett received a $1,000 grant to host two professional photographers who will visit the class and give workshops on various photography techniques.

Leap and Learn, which teaches basic education skills through an integrated dance/movement program, was awarded $2,000 to work with the K–1 class in South Egremont and the second grade class at Undermountain Elementary School.

A grant of $3,000 was awarded to Seth Hersch, a teacher at Mount Everett, to create a literary magazine for fourth through twelfth graders to showcase their poetry, artwork, and creative writing talents.

A $760 grant was awarded for a proposal submitted by a group of students to build a park for skateboards, in-line skaters, and bikes on the school grounds.

The seventh and eight grade classes at Mount Everett Middle School were awarded $5,000 for a series of field trips thoughout the year. A previous Janet's Fund grant allowed the classes to visit Hancock Shaker Village, Plimouth Plantation on Cape Cod, and Washington, D.C., last year.

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation cultivates philanthropy in Berkshire, Litchfield, Columbia, and Dutchess Counties to improve the quality of life by making grants to the area's nonprofits. To fulfill this mission, the Foundation acquires charitable funds, provides community leadership, distributes grants, assists donors and prudently manages the Foundation's resources to improve the quality of life for all the citizens of the Berkshire Taconic area. In 1999 BTCF awarded a total of $394,391 in competitive grants to 163 organizations in Berkshire, Columbia, Dutchess, and Litchfield Counties. Additionally, donor advisors and agencies with funds at BTCF granted out another $4.1 million to nonprofits, 85% of them in the four-county region. For more information, please write BTCF at 271 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230, call (800) 969-2823, or e-mail at btcf@bcn.net.

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Rep Rap

On January 25, 2000, I testified before the Massachusetts Board of Education on the School Building Assistance program and the need to preserve our rural, community schools providing it remains a cost-efficient manner of offering a quality public education to our children. I thought I would share with you the letter I submitted along with my testimony. As of this moment, we are awaiting the Governor's decision on this important program. The letter is as follows:

Thank you for allowing me to speak before the Massachusetts Board of Education meeting. I am interested in addressing the agenda item regarding School Building Assistance.

Last July, Commissioner Driscoll issued a memo to superintendents and related parties concerning the reuse and renovation of existing school buildings. The memo stated that the Department's preference is to reuse and renovate existing buildings "whenever it is cost efficient to do so and can meet the educational needs of the district." As you may know, I filed legislation and a budget amendment last year to enable school districts to opt for renovation regardless of whether the community has land available where a new school could be constructed and of whether or not the existing building is wood-framed. The language was adopted in the House, but did not survive the conference committee.

My purpose in advocating this measure is that it appears that rural school districts are not "allowed" or "encouraged" to apply for reimbursements for renovations to their existing buildings because there exists open space in which to build a new school. To require this from rural schools nullifies the role that a school building plays in a community. It discounts the historical value of the building and preservation of open space. This method of operation also neglects the notion that school buildings are a crucial fiber in the life of our downtowns across Massachusetts. Forcing rural school districts to build new schools diminishes their presence in the hearts of our communities while encouraging sprawl and destruction of open space. Our school buildings and open spaces are cherished jewels in the Commonwealth's rural communities and should not simply be disregarded.

I respectfully request that you take this view into consideration before you vote on proposed amendments to the School Building Assistance regulations. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

As always please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns at my full-time district office, 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

Senator Says

Home Heating: Safeguards for Consumers: Families throughout New England were surprised by a sharp increase in the price of home heating oil during late January. The causes of the price increase are hard to pin down: the cold snap and reduced production in oil-exporting countries are factors. The Massachusetts Attorney General has announced that he will investigate whether suppliers or other oil businesses have unfairly increased the prices they charge to consumers.

I am concerned about the cause of the price increase, but I am more concerned about the impact of these soaring prices on seniors and families in western Massachusetts. This column reviews ways to receive assistance with your heating bills, or to protect yourself from a utility shutoff in the event that you have difficulty keeping up with the sudden increase in your gas or electric heating bill this winter.

Fuel Assistance: One safeguard is the state and federally funded fuel assistance program. This program provides financial assistance for heating costs to low-income households, both homeowners and renters. The amount of assistance varies depending on the availability of state and federal funding, and payments are made directly to energy suppliers of qualified households. Senator Edward M. Kennedy recently asked President Clinton to release emergency funds to provide more help for low-income families in New England. Proof of income is needed to apply for this program. Contact my district office in Pittsfield, (413) 442-6810, if you would like more information.

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Guaranteed Protection: If you have gas or electric heat, state law and regulations provide protection from utility shutoffs for customers who document with the utility company that they have special circumstances and/or financial hardship. In some cases, these households are protected at any time of the year; in other cases the protection applies during the "winter moratorium," from November 15 to March 15. Unfortunately, the winter moratorium does not apply to delivered fuels, such as propane, oil, or wood. Households qualify for protection if they fall within one or more of the following categories:

•All members are 65 or older. These households cannot have utility service terminated unless the utility company gets approval from the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE).

•A member of the household is seriously ill and the household is in financial hardship. Documentation from a registered physician is necessary, and the certificate must be renewed monthly (or quarterly for chronic illness).

•There is a child under 12 months of age and the household is in financial hardship. A birth certificate for proof of the child's age must be available.

•Households in financial hardship cannot have their heating utilities shut off during the winter moratorium.

Please note that your household can be protected under these regulations only after you have notified the utility company of your special circumstances. Contact your utility company and ask about income guidelines and other regulations for protected customers. Most regular November utility bills included an application for financial hardship status, or you can obtain one from your utility company by request.

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Other Customers: Even if you do not qualify for the protections listed above, all households have some additional protections during the winter moratorium. Before shutting off a heating utility during the winter, a utility company representative must have face-to-face contact with someone in the household, or must have contact with the customer by telephone, within 3 days prior to the shutoff. At other times of the year, the utility company must notify the customer in writing of its intention to shut off service at least 3 days prior to the scheduled shutoff. Shutoffs can occur only Monday through Thursday during office hours. There are no shutoffs on Friday or the day before a holiday for residential customers.

New Exhibit at the Berkshire Museum: The Berkshire Museum has, once again, brought a world-class exhibit to western Massachusetts. "Microbes: Invisible Invaders, Amazing Allies," is a visually interesting, high-tech exhibit that is fun for the whole family. Through the use of video games, computers, virtual reality and other hands-on displays, you and the kids can discover the hidden world of these tiny organisms and learn more about their impact on our daily lives.

During the "Microbes" exhibit, The Berkshire Museum will be open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m.–5 p.m. Admission to "Microbes" is free to Museum members, children under 3, and on visitors' birthdays. Non-member rates are adults, $6; students (with ID) and adults 65 and over, $5; children 3–18 years, $4. The Berkshire Museum is wheelchair accessible with some limitations. The Museum is located on South Street in Pittsfield.

Senior Pharmacy Reminder: Priscilla Zuber, the Senior Pharmacy Program Liaison for Pittsfield, has asked me to send out an additional reminder about assistance available to qualified senior citizens to cover costs of prescription drugs. Eligible enrollees can receive up to $1,250 annually for outpatient prescription drugs. Eligibility is based on income. An individual may qualify if her or his income does not exceed $15,492 per year. For more information, to request an application, or to discuss eligibility, seniors may call 1-800-953-3305, or contact Priscilla Zuber in Pittsfield at (413) 499-0524.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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Training for Tutors of Adult Learners

The Southern Berkshire Literacy Network (SBLN), a one-on-one adult literacy program based at the Lee Library on Main Street, is offering a special four-session training for volunteers wishing to learn how to teach adults basic reading, basic math, GED preparation, English as a Second Language, and citizenship exam preparation. The workshops will begin Monday, March 20, and end Monday, April 3. All sessions are free and run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Space is limited, and those interested should call 413-243-0471 or e-mail kamash@aol.com to register by March 17.

The Monday, March 20, workshop is entitled "An Overview of the Southern Berkshire Literacy Network and Adult as Learner" and will answer the questions, "What does SBLN do?" "Who are SBLN's students?" and "Who are SBLN's volunteer tutors?" The session will be led by Zoë Dalheim and Karen Shreefter. Shreefter is SBLN Education Director and Dalheim co-founded SBLN and The Learning Connection in Pittsfield, an organization offering information and referral, reading assessment, and tutoring for dyslexic adults, which she directed until 1997. She also filled the roles of coordinator, researcher, and teacher at Project READ.

On Tuesday, March 21, Dalheim will lead a session entitled "How To Teach Basic Reading Skills." Teaching reading sessions continue Tuesday, March 28, with Dalheim and the training participants examining "How To Recognize and Assist With Learning Disabilities." The training concludes Monday, April 3, when Dianne Shewcraft leads a workshop entitled "How To Teach English as a Second Language." Shewcraft is an ESOL teacher at the Adult Learning Center, co-author of an ESOL manual and a YALD workshop presenter.

The primary qualifications for being a tutor are patience, attendance at trainings, and a commitment to your student. Founded in 1991, the SBLN program trains and provides volunteer tutors to teach reading, math, English as a Second Language, and GED (high school equivalency diploma) preparation to adults. The last census showed about 4,000 adults in South County had no high school diploma. Each year over 100 adult learners use SBLN's free service for both native-born and immigrant adult students with a range of skills and needs. Some are afraid of losing jobs, because their reading, writing, and math skills have not kept pace with the increasing demands of the workplace. Others are unable to fill out job applications. SBLN tutors also help immigrants improve their English and prepare for citizenship.

For more information about the Southern Berkshire Literacy Network or to register by March 17 for the upcoming trainings, call SBLN at (413) 243-0471 or e-mail kamash@aol.com.

— Karen Schreefter

Monterey Daffodils for American Cancer Society

It's that time again—Mud season is coming up and time for a bright spot in your day. The crew has their info and are out calling for orders. You may call any one of the workers to place an order.

The deadline for orders is March 10. A bunch of ten cut budded daffodils is $5.00. They must be prepaid. Delivery date is March 29 when you can pick them up at the Monterey Store where Gale and Maynard Forbes will distribute them again this year. Please remember to pick them up on March 29.

Our workers call in their own neighborhoods. They are Fran Amidon, 528-1233; Rita Backhaus, 528-2244; Jane Black, 528-6632; Shelly Bynack; Leona Chamberlin, 528-0148; John Jefferson, 528-4449; Ruth Champigny, 528-2856; Stephanie Grotz, 528-4519; Maureen Haugh, 528-0782; Sandy Leining, 528-9635; Bob Rausch, 528-3219; Nancy Rowley, 528-6952; Cynthia Webber (Elderly), 528-3698; Anita Carroll-Weldon, 528-6888; Gould Farm, ask for Carley, 528-1804. You may call them and place your order now. Coordinating orders is Pat Mielke.

Don't forget to pick them up on Wednesday March 29 at the Monterey General Store. Thanks so much.

— Fran Amidon

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Talk By Vandana Shiva

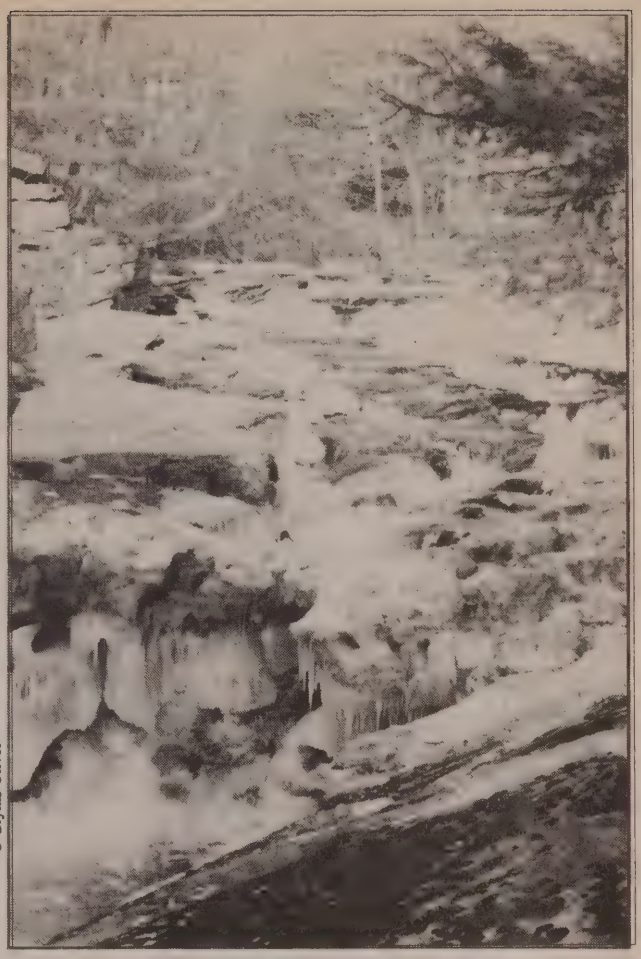
World-renowned environmental activist and author Vandana Shiva will present an E. F. Schumacher Society lecture on Sunday, March 19. The talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on Main Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Formerly one of India's leading physicists, Vandana Shiva is Director of the Research Foundation on Science, Technology, and Ecology. She is also a leader in the International Forum on Globalization, along with Ralph Nader and Jeremy Rifkin. Recipient of the 1993 Alternative Nobel Peace Prize (the Right Livelihood Award), Shiva is the author of several books. Her most recent title, *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply* (South End Press, 2000), builds on her path-breaking work in uncovering the devastating impacts of corporate-engineered international trade agreements on both the human and natural environments. The book traces the effects of industrial agriculture on small farmers, the environment, and the quality of the foods we eat. Among Shiva's other books are *Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge* (South End Press, 1997) and *Monocultures of the Mind* (Zed, 1993).

Shiva has been described by the *Utne Reader* as a "leading thinker who has eloquently blended her views on the environment, agriculture, spirituality, and women's rights into a powerful philosophy." *The Progressive* calls her a "burst of creative energy and intellectual power," and *Ms.* magazine comments, "Her fierce intellect and her disarmingly friendly, accessible manner have made her a valuable advocate for people all over the developing world." She was featured in a sold-out public debate in Seattle on November 30, 1999, on "Globalization and the World Trade Organization," along with Ralph Nader, John Cavanagh, and Jadgish Bhagwati. The debate, which was sponsored by *The Nation* magazine and Public Citizen, aired nationally on C-Span.

Tickets are only available at the door: $7 general admission, $5 for students and seniors. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. The event will conclude with a reception and book signing. The lecture is cosponsored by the E. F. Schumacher Society, The Orion Society, and other Berkshire/Litchfield environmental groups.

For more information: (413) 528-1737 or www.schumachersociety.org.



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Konkapot cascade, River Road

Eagle Fund Applications

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation announces that the Eagle Fund is now accepting applications for this year. The Eagle Fund supports projects that sustain excellence in education in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Students, teachers, administrators and community members are eligible to apply. Applications are available at the Superintendent's Office at SBRSD. Completed applications must be received at the school by March 20, 2000.

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The Silent Sonata

There is a lamentation
A smoking, wandering, wisp of yearning
That trails through this labyrinth field.
A dream that taps
All whispering, nudging and swirling
Quite heedless of the chickadee ...
That perhaps in this life,
Ignited and iced with intricacies,
Love can find opulent ground.
Yet a mouth cannot speak,
When gripped by ardor
Those letters that spark to sounds and meaning
Cannot be uttered to the hearkened ear.
Perhaps unsung sonnets
Are best left
To the unaffected chickadee

— M.M. Hamilton

The End of the World

Stupid buds.
Stupid lovers.
The stars' light
might be dead
upon arrival.

— Peter Shepley

Driving Home from the Schoodic Peninsula at the End of October

I scrape the windshield clean of frost,
my throat metallic with loss.

When I turn right at Dorcas Library,
a blue chenille bathrobe of ocean
embroidered with roses of islands
couched at the water's edge with silver,
shimmers, falls into my suitcase.

But, back in the Berkshires, the afternoon sky's
a yellow opal bracelet on a sapphire silk scarf.

— MaryKate Jordan

Lottery

and I
a one
am all
succombed
no more
am I
awash
in backwatered
realms
am I
in now
and perched
to winnow

— Peter Shepley

The Chapel Bell of Poros

The small bell clanks the hours
through the scent of blue
and the waters dapple all prayers

sometimes
the bell of this small chapel
chinks three times
for each stroke
one for the Father
one for the Son
and one for the white Dove of the Holy Spirit

it sounds
like the cracked voice of a young priest
who has gathered his garments together
at great cost.

— A. O.Howell

No Time for Shooting Stars

I ride these long blue shadows
to February's doorstep
watching my favorite movie:
snow falling on white pines:
over and over again
sullen, sad and pissing
under cloudless constellations
I've given up on shooting stars!
just shoveling the path
wide enough to walk with
a swing or a swagger
and not slander or stumble
requires a full time mind—

to come upon the crescent
hanging in the morning sky
high above the seas of snow
is wonder enough without
want or wish upon a star—

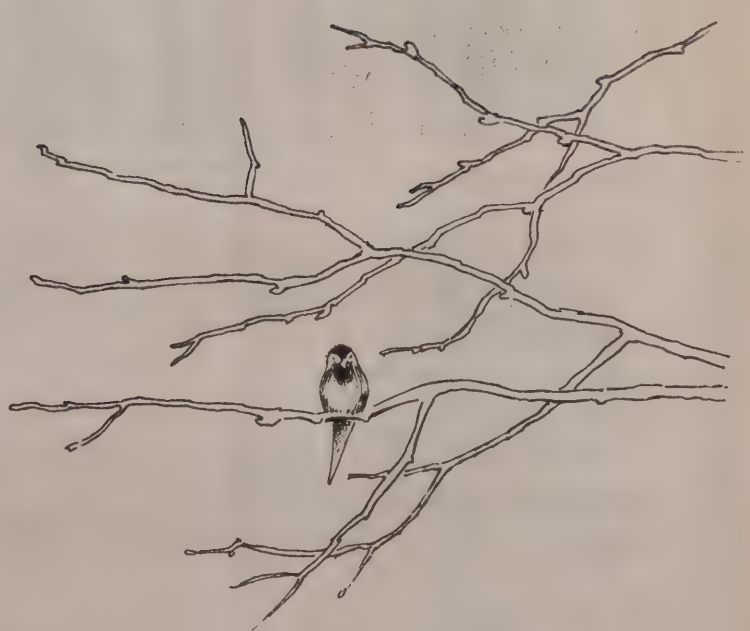
— R. Zukowski

Island of Poros: Apollo

Apollo is pagan
every day he is baptised afresh
by the tears of the poor

here Christ rises in the bread baked
and we eat the sun
at every meal.

— A. O. Howell



Aloha From Maui

What a long flight—eighteen hours from Newark; but well worth it. My body is still adjusting from Monterey snow to summer. I am writing you from near the top of Halea Kala Mountain. The majestic eucalyptus trees provide a sweet, rich smell. It is cooler up here, about 65°. I'm wearing my light winter clothes. Of course to the locals this is winter. The wet, sunny climate on the mountains makes everything green, lush, and healing.

It is about a half-hour drive down the mountain (two-and-a-half-hour hike) to Pai-ia, a charming small town by the ocean. The temperature changes drastically, up to 85°.

The island has many of the qualities of a tropical paradise. All the tropical climates exist here: dry desert, rain forest, high mountains, and, best of all, the aqua and crystal-blue ocean. A sea breeze keeps your face cool at all times. There is a slower, relaxed pace to life, since most people here are on vacation. There is some animosity between the natives and the tourists. It must be frustrating at times for the workers, and at other times rewarding to have relaxed, talkative customers.

I thought to take this opportunity to share with you the benefits and uses of the ginger plant, *Zingiber officinale,* the edible plant in the *Zingiberaceae* family. I love the sweet and pungent root of this plant, a perennial that grows to about two feet with long narrow reedlike leaves stemming from tuberous rhizomes. Another, nonedible, ginger has long and full crimson or pink flowers that are in every Hawaiian bouquet. Ginger is a native of southern Asia and is cultivated commercially in the West Indies, Africa, and here in the Hawaiian Islands.

Ginger was called *vishwabhesaj,* "the universal medicine," in Sanskrit. Ginger root can be used fresh or dried and is helpful for colds, flu, indigestion, vomiting, belching, laryngitis, arthritis, hemmoroids, headaches, and heart disease. Because it is a pungent herb (root), it helps to heal the lungs, large intestine, heart, spleen, and kidneys. It should not be forgotten while traveling. Ginger is highly stimulating and should be used with caution in cases where growths such a tumors may be enhanced. Also, in some situations it is too much for a really weak stomach. You will know by trusting your own judgment.

The dried root can be decocted into teas and soups and goes deeper into the body to heat and dissolve old mucous and stagnation, especially good for healing chronic constipation. I strengthen my own intestines by simmering dried ginger, licorice root, astragalous, chaga mushroom, and cinnamon bark. Add cardamon and either soy or cows' milk and you have a most delicious medicinal chai. I learned this yummy brew from my first herbal teacher Deb Soule, founder of Avena Botanicals in Rockport Maine, a wonderful source for organic biodynamic teas, tinctures, salves, and lotions of the highest quality.

Fresh ginger is used in many ways. My favorite way is to grate a juicy fresh yellow root and squeeze the juice into stir fries, soups, salads, applesauce, or peach crisp. Another of my favorites is Istanbul sauce. Use a half cup "tohum" tahini (organic wood-fire roasted tahini from Turkey with a taste to live for; you can get it at the Berkshire Co-op in Great Barrington), grated white or red onion, soy sauce, lemon juice, ginger juice, and umeboshi vinegar. Just play with the measurements or look the recipe up in *Cooking the Whole Foods Way* by Christina Pirello. This sauce is especially good on udon noodles, couscous salad, or a hearty plate of greens.

Last time I checked the Co-op was selling fresh organic Hawaiian ginger, so please treat yourself and also support the import of organic ginger. The cost is higher, but the flavor is far superior and more vibrant.

Simple yet wonderful pleasures like drinking a hot cup of fresh ginger tea with honey can sooth anyone. It is also a reputed aphrodsiac, so enjoy ginger here, there, and everywhere to lift your spirits.

— Christine Morrow

Hear ye, hear ye!

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Lent

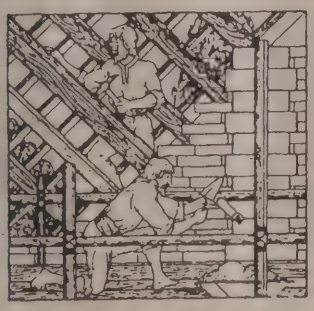
I am having a difficult time writing something intelligible. I guess I shouldn't be surprised. This month marks the beginning of Lent; and I am filled with years of memories arising from the season. And most of those memories are not my favorite ones! My parents were very religious. Sunday School, Worship Service, Youth Fellowship, Mid-Week Prayer Service, Choir rehearsal: attendance at all were mandatory. With the arrival of the Lenten season there was not so much an increase of mandatory services or activities to attend as there was a heavy, almost suffocating, pall draped over my daily life. I was continually being reminded of how much of a sinner I was, as noted in the Scripture readings and the rituals. And indelibly imprinted upon me was how much I needed to "get right with God." The message was one of "God the Judge and man the sinner." It was an obsequious relationship.

The "release" came after an appalling number of services during Holy Week that ended with the Easter Sunday Sunrise Service and Breakfast. The latter was the preferable of the two! For me the fellowship that was associated with the savory smells of eggs, bacon, ham, sausage, toast, sweet rolls, coffee, and juice was sacramental. The pall of Lent dissipated in the laughter and conversation around the breakfast tables of countless church basements.

So here I am about to begin another Lenten season. I am no longer interested in a "mea culpa," "woe is me" cycle. So where does this leave me? The word *Lent* hints at another meaning. It is derived from the Middle English word *lente*, originally "spring." As is the case with several of the important Christian seasons and festivals, the significance arises from a celebration of episodes in and of Creation. Unfortunately, some rather unhappy, dyspeptic Christian bishops (male all) managed to overlay some of their personal despair and depression on what were and are affirmative events in God's relationship with creation. And so we have occurring alongside the religious season of Lent—forty days (excluding Sundays) of rather heavy penitential obeisance to a judgmental God—the burgeoning of the season of Spring—more daylight and sunlight, warmer temperatures. Frankly, I vote for the latter over the former!

Fortunately, it is not necessary to choose one over the other. It is more a matter of generally disregarding a few centuries of misguided interpretation of Jesus' life and ministry. Lent is a creation of the institutional church. It was and is not a decree handed down from "on High." Spring is an ongoing celebration of God's creation. Allow the fundamental and creative love of God (so vividly revealed in Jesus of Nazareth) to be assertive with the burgeoning of Spring and, I think, there will be a healthier appreciation of Lent. For what we celebrate this season of the year is the creative and sustaining power of God. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are eloquent testimony to that. And Spring is the Earth's engagement in a rhythm that appears to defy the worst that you and I can do to subvert and destroy this magnificent creation. I thank God for both, and I hope to be a kinder and gentler person through Lent and Spring.

— Keith Snow



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About Astrology

Pisces: Dancing in the Dark or a Little Light in the Darkness?

Pisces is the twelfth sign of the zodiac. As the last of the dozen, Pisces deals with all that hasn't been taken care of or brought into balance already in the zodiac circle.

Pisces attempts this rather Herculean task with the faith that allows for walking on water, or with panic, swamped in a sea of illusion. After all, Pisces is the sign of the romantic, the visionary, the quixotic. She's likely to believe "impossible things before breakfast" and be heartbroken when her vision of the world-that-could-be and the world-of-experience bump up against each other.

Compatibile with the planet Neptune, Ruler of the Sea, this sign is called "The Sign of the Fishes" for good reason. But Pisces' traditional image isn't just a pair of fishes. It's two fishes, one heading north, the other heading south, both bound together at the middle.

Sound like a dilemma? It can get really painful, painful enough to provoke Pisces to do the things most challenging to her nature and most powerful for her growth: set boundaries, make choices.

Once Pisces makes a choice to swim north with one fish or south with the other, her faith in herself starts to glimmer. By the beautiful phosphorescent glow of this inner light, she can discern when to use the joy of the playful dolphin, the humility of the lowly, bottom-feeding flounder, or the absolute focus of the determined salmon to help her find her rightful place in the scheme of things.

And once in her right place, she's likely to find a surprise waiting. It's her dream come true, that other fish that got away, the source of the "fish stories" no one but she ever believed in before. She'll find that the world of experience is only a reflection of the world that could be, and the best of her impossible dreams are made of the gossamer stuff that holds the universe together.

—MaryKate Jordan

◆

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Turkey on Keyes Corner

I was going to write this story in the third person: "A person I know well did this and that..." making it plain that this was really me but that I'd rather not risk public proscription for my illegal acts. But I guess if it is out in the open about Al Gore and his days as a doper I can come clean about the turkey of Route 23. If I ever run for president I'll switch to third person and get suitably vague. "A what? No, no—I think we once had a rooster by that name."

This turkey has no name. When I first saw it, I couldn't even tell what it was—just something dark and big tossed up on the snowbank. A dog, I thought, or maybe a fisher. Whenever possible I stop to see what I can learn in a situation like this, so I went down the road to a safe place to park and walked back. I have been scared of that corner all my life thanks to the frequent admonitions of my great-aunt Minnie S. Keyes who lived there and who was a lively woman with a fine sense of life-

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and-death drama, especially death. If we didn't get hit by a car on Route 23 you could be sure we would go up in smoke as we knelt by the open fire in our nightgowns. My great-aunt listened to the news on the radio and brought the highlights to the dinner table, to liven things up. "Just call me Mrs. Gloom and Doom," she would say happily, as she served us up another disaster.

My feeling about a perfect wild creature, smashed on the highway by an inanimate hunk of flying, stinking metal, is that maybe it eases the pain and loss somehow for me to stop and learn something. Maybe I can make a little sense out of senselessness this way. Anyway, this is how the turkey came to my house.

I never was so close to a wild turkey before. I didn't know about the little horn like a unicorn's that grows in the middle of the "forehead" of a turkey. It is possible this was an immature male, but I took it to be a female because the tail feathers were so short—only six inches long. Also, it had very little in the way of warty decorations on the head and neck, and these are especially typical of males, who need them to look beautiful to females, also to broadcast most effectively their flashing emotions of love and territoriality. A turkey's warty decorations can change color in a second from deep red to white with bright blue frosting. Male turkeys also have a long pendulous nose ornament called a snood, which not only changes color but increases rapidly in length when needed for effect. My turkey had no snood.

To describe the outward attributes of this turkey could take all night, all day, the rest of my life! The bronze neck feathers, the little pointed leg spurs, the short "beard" of bristly feather material—she had it all. You should know about her exquisite barred wingfeathers, so strong and crisp along the leading edge and so weightless and downy close to her body. These feathers were held to the wing in row of parallel skin sheaths, each more than an inch long, each ready to fan and fly. Maybe you'll get a chance to admire a turkey, or a turkey feather, up close. At least you will have seen turkeys around here making their way across snowy fields, dark and dignified. But maybe you will not get to take the journey I took, which was to the Inner Turkey.

I have cut up many a chicken, fresh from my own henhouse, and never have I had such a sweet-smelling experience as I had with this turkey. Not only that, but all her insides were good-looking, just like her outsides. Her heart and liver were the handsomest I have ever seen, and her strong gizzard was full of little white pebbles which should probably be made into a necklace. In her crop, the storage basket certain large birds have, there was about a cup of freshly nipped hemlock tips and a good quantity of hulled sunflower seeds. When she let these down into her gizzard they would be ground up by the pebbles, the way we chew our food, and then let into her long digestive tract.

All these wonders, laid to smash on Keyes Corner. I guess it could just as easily have been me if it hadn't been for the warnings I got all through childhood from my dear old Mrs. Gloom and Doom. But if it had been me, I'm sure I'd have been embarrassed to be seen so closely, inside and out. I'm sad to say my life, my diet, are unlikely to lead anyone on a journey as purely lovely as the one I took with the turkey.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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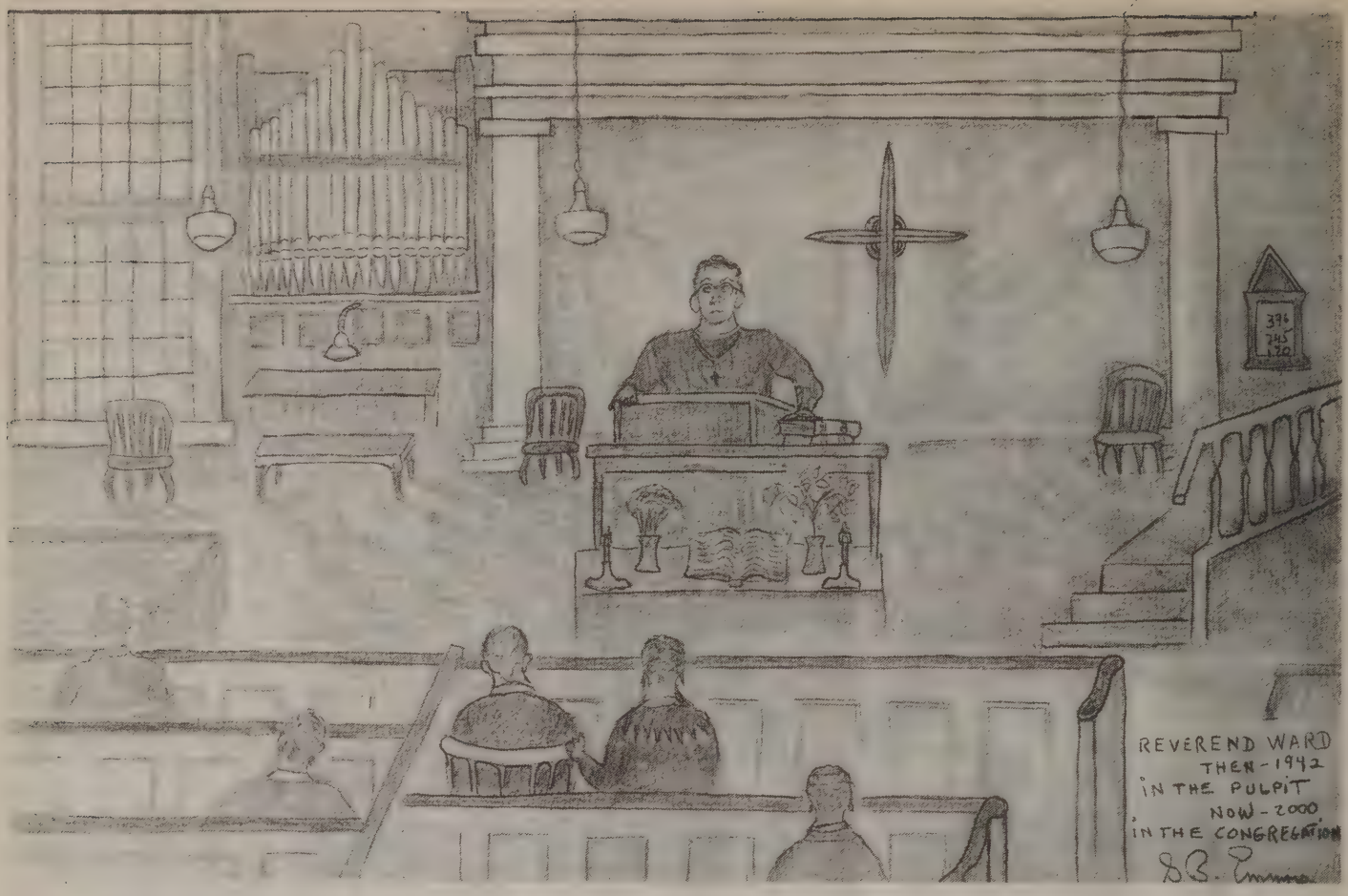

Reverend Raymond Ward
(Then and Now)

Reverend Raymond Ward is a retired senior citizen who lives with his wife Mary Black Ward at 409 Main Road in Monterey. Married for sixty-six years, they now live in the green house near the top of the hill, just past the firehouse, at the entrance to Fox Hill Road. At this location, Raymond and Mary might be among the first to know when the siren blows, but they also get the most beautiful sunsets in Berkshire County.

To the east, the United Church of Christ is visible just a short distance down the hill in a Norman Rockwell setting that has inspired the art of Leonard Weber and Frank D'Amato. For Raymond and Mary the distance might be short, but it is also a journey back in time. He was interim Pastor there from 1942 to 1946, and later full-time Pastor from 1948 to 1956.

Even if you don't get to church, Sunday is an appropriate time to count your blessings. Raymond and Mary are proud to have raised three daughters, now married: Leslie Paine, now living in Sutton, Massachusetts; Sally Pullen of Burlington, Vermont; and Louise Henry of Williamsburg, Massachusetts. And now there are no less than eight grandchildren, a living legacy into the new millennium.

When Raymond finished his full-time ministry in Monterey, he went on to follow his Congregational calling in the town of Monroe, Connecticut, for ten years, and then Mansfield, Connecticut, for another ten years. Yet a special bond with the people and life in Monterey never left Raymond and Mary, and they had valid reasons for coming back here to retire. And to this very day, any road from their home can easily become a trip down memory lane.

Looking way back, the route here probably began in 1937 when Raymond graduated from the Hartford Theological Seminary, no mean accomplishment for a young man with a speech impedi-

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ment. He made the most of being admitted there on the recommendation of the very eminent Dean Rockwell Harmon Potter, who saw in Raymond the potential that more than compensated for anything else. If this was a lucky break, based upon the Dean's good judgment, it takes more than one mentor to mold a career. In his studies, Raymond read about the teachings of the famous theologian John Frederick Oberlin that combined both Pastoral and Social missions in a commitment to Ministry. This concept helped set the course for Raymond's future.

But Raymond brought much broader experience to Monterey. When he was growing up in Brookline, Massachusetts, his father was an agent for the Board of Health, implementing the sanitation standards for the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Raymond had the interest and opportunity to acquire related skills, including livestock husbandry, farm equipment maintenance, and business management, by working with farmers themselves. So after summers of field projects and research, you might say that he became an agricultural jack-of-all-trades.

Raymond's father must have been proud of his son the day he announced that he had reached a crossroad in his commitments. He had decided that the welfare of animals was interesting, but that he needed a higher level of achievement in helping people. So, when he could not find a full-time ministerial position he wanted after he was ordained, he became a manager at Gould Farm. With him he brought both his religious training and agricultural expertise, a remarkable pastoral combination in one person.

The years from 1942 to 1946, when Raymond was helping to manage the farm, and serving as interim Pastor of the church here, were difficult years for farmers because of World War Two, and even more so for Raymond. While at the seminary, he had come into contact with Gifford Towe, who shared his conscientious objector's aversion to fighting. Nevertheless Raymond had the strength of his convictions, and was able to make a major contribution to keeping the Gould Farm mission on track, enhancing the mental health of the guests to rehabilitate themselves through farmwork and family living.

Raymond talks fondly about the little things and the mechanics of daily life that got them through. And as we know, it is the sum total of small and seemingly unrelated parts that make the whole of our achievements. For instance, he and Raymond Olds (Storrs' father) together built an all-purpose farm buggy they called a doodle bug, made up of several parts of cars that would otherwise have been junked. Raymond Olds and Raymond Ward shared many goals as farm managers, a friendship that lasted long afterward, and helped to cement Raymond's connection here.

For a year or so after he left Gould Farm, until he became full-time Pastor here, Raymond had no permanent job to support a wife and three small children. He will never forget how people in Monterey went out of their way to give him odd jobs: cutting wood, working as a counselor at Jason Camp, and, fortunately, driving the school bus.

Konkapot swimming hole and cascade, River Road, ca. 1950

Whenever he could, Raymond reciprocated, serving the town on the Finance Committee, as Town Clerk, as Selectman, and then some. When Raymond and Mary now come down the hill to church, I wonder if it takes him back to when he would preach the sermon. But if he could do it all over again, I don't think he would change a thing. As shown in my drawing, he is as satisfied to sit in the congregation now as he was motivated to stand in the pulpit then.

— George Emmons

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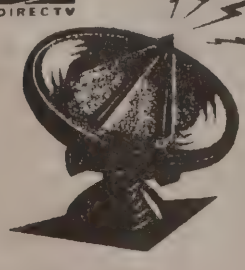
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The Creatures in the Snow

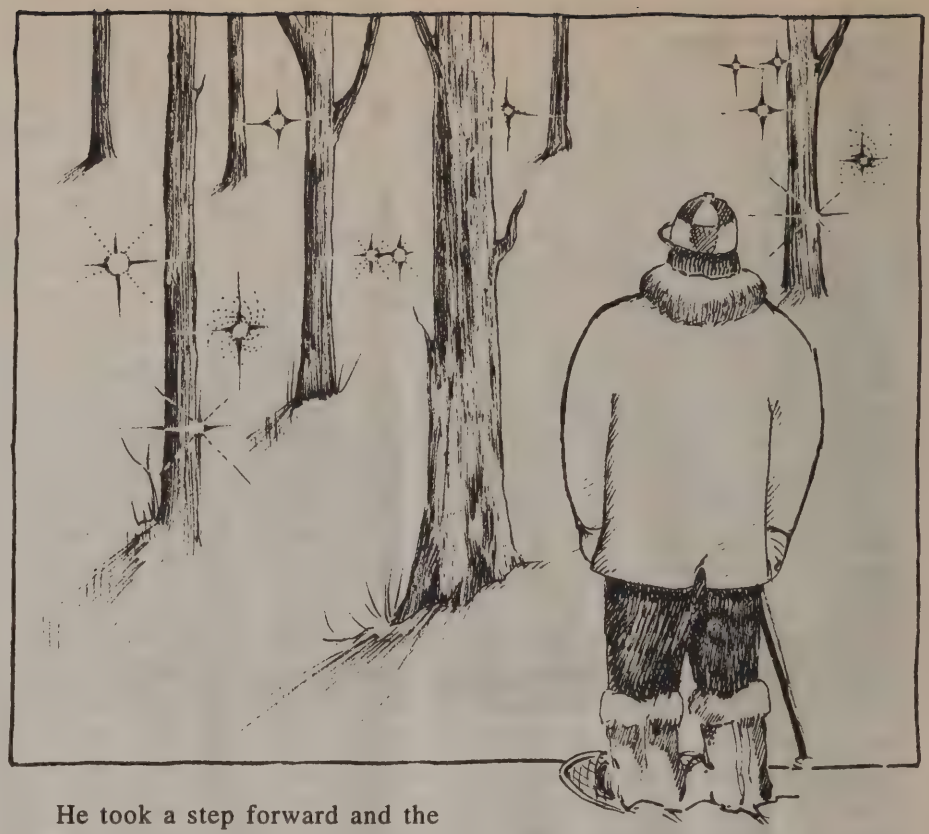
One day a hunter was snowshoeing through the woods hoping to find deer tracks recent enough to be worth following. He came to a slope where the sunlight came down through the hemlocks. As he started uphill, he suddenly realized that two glittering eyes in the snow were watching him. They were about six inches apart. "It must be a good-sized creature," he thought.

One eye was an incandescent violet, while the other glowed pale gold like the Sun itself. The hunter stood there dazzled by the sparkle and shimmer of those extraordinary eyes. He moved his head a little, and the eyes instantly vanished.

"The creature has ducked back under the snow," thought the hunter. "It doesn't like me to move." He slowly brought his head back to where it had been, and there were the eyes again, as brilliant as ever.

The eyes winked out of sight when the hunter moved his head the other way. Then they reappeared, effulgent, just above the surface of the snow, when he moved back.

"It must look like a huge frog," thought the hunter, "and those irridescent eyes are right on top of its head. Perhaps it is insubstantial, like light itself, and can slide through the frozen ground without disturbing it."



He took a step forward and the creature was gone, but a dozen others blazed into view on other parts of the slope. Most of them had only one eye, but there was a different creature with three, set in a triangle. No two eyes were quite the same color or size. Some were radiantly rutilant in various hues and intensities. Others were cerulescent or viridescent, like the tourmalines you sometimes find clenched in the roots of an old tree that has blown down. A little wind came through the hemlocks and powdery snow drifted in the air while the eyes gleamed and shone.

"It is probably only on winter days like this," thought the hunter, "that the creatures come up at all. They come to gather up this particular light from the shortest days of the year, and then they slip through the earth looking for crystals where they can store it forever."

Having got that settled, he took up his search for deer tracks again, and the creatures watched him go with their helianthic, lambent, lustrous eyes.

— David P. McAllester

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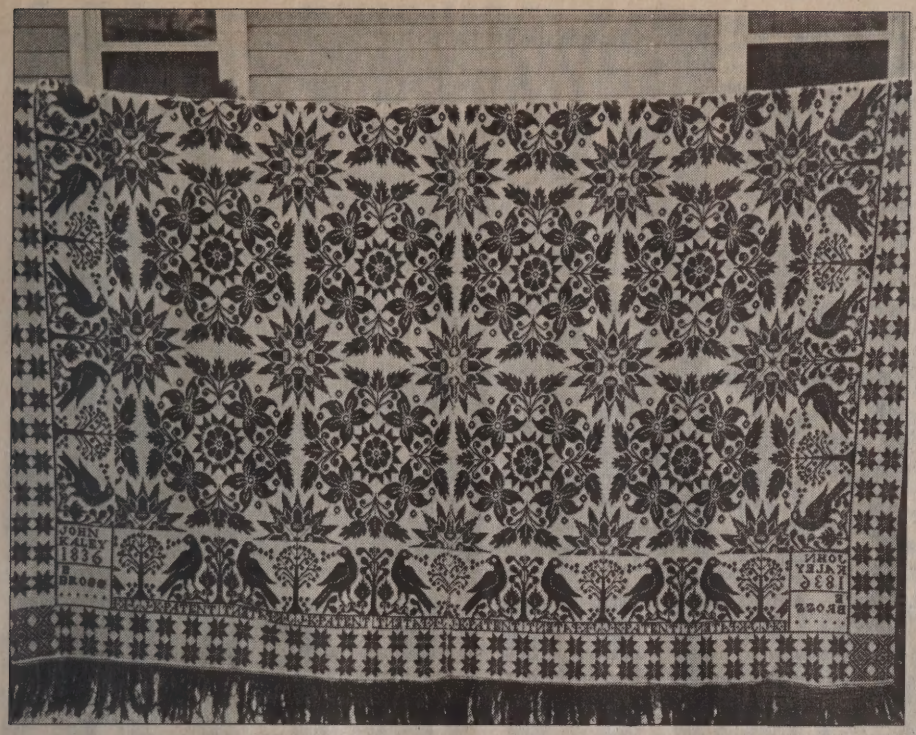
The Weather in Cyberspace

For those of us on the internet, www.weather.com will give you Monterey weather! Just type in 01245 and you get all weather details freshly updated every two hours plus five-day forecast. Another click from there can bring more detailed information plus pictures of local doppler and latest satellite view. It is all most impressive. Check it out!

— Alice O. Howell



© Edie Ross

She was Sarah LaTourette, who took on her father's work after his death.

The first coverlet Edie purchased was woven in indigo and white by Arch Davidson, a weaver from New York State. New York, along with New Jersey and Maryland, became home to a large number of English weavers who immigrated to the United States during the nineteenth century. The states with the largest concentration of weavers at that time were Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Indiana, Illinois, and Maryland. The craft also flourished in small areas of Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, and West Virginia.

Now, after more than a century, the work of these dedicated craftsmen still speaks for itself, as Edie's photos—and her passion for the craft—attest.

— MaryKate Jordan

Have Needle; Will (Time) Travel

A Collection of Coverlets

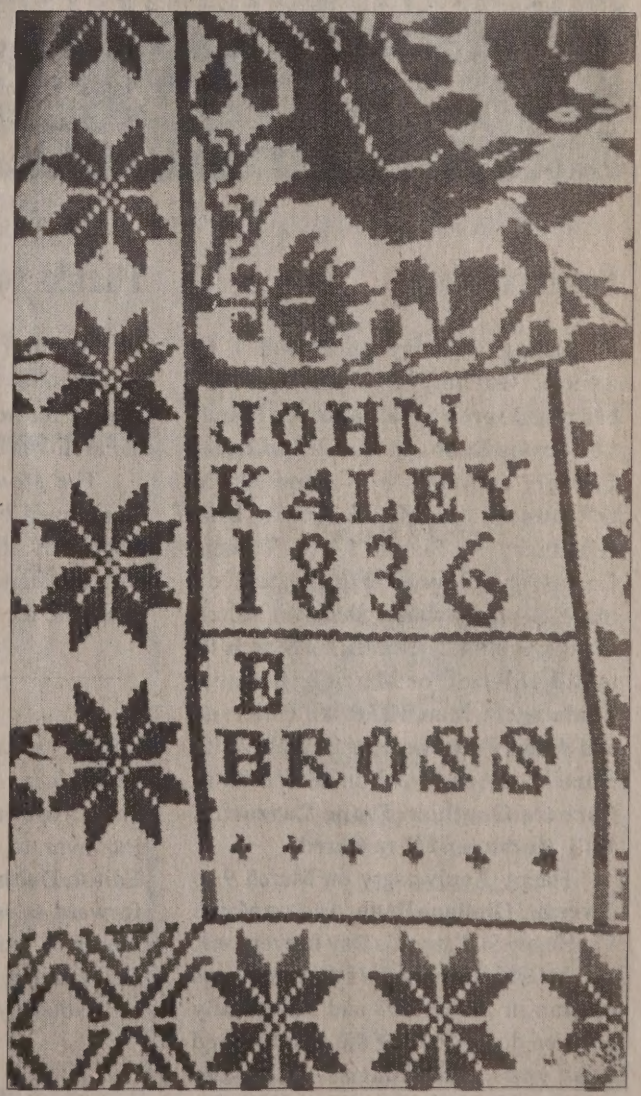
You may already know her as a potter, or as a neighbor. I met Edie Ross because Barbara Tryon told me Edie has a collection of wonderful old coverlets. Edie has a passion for nineteenth-century memorabelia: not only coverlets, but also quilts, samplers, painted wooden blocks and other children's toys. Moving from room to room with her, poring over the coverlets in the Ross house on Main Road, was a treat for my eyes, heart, and hands. It was an educational tour, as well.

Most nineteenth-century woolen coverlets were woven in an overshot pattern. The color placement on the back appears reversed from the placement on the the front. Common patterns included snowflakes, stars, medallions, pineapples, cornucopias, oak leaves, and roses. Except for the work of Ohio and Pennsylvania German weavers, whose double weave work was turned and hemmed, most of these coverlets were finished with fringe.

Our image of the "itinerant weaver" is a misnomer, Edie told me. Although a weaver might live in a place for a year or so, until all the weaving to be done in an area was completed, and then move on, the coverlets were not purchased ready-made from the back of a wagon.

Traditionally, a weaver would reserve two bottom blocks in his pattern for his signature, the year the work was completed, and, often, the name of the person for whom the coverlet was created. The signature blocks were woven so that no matter which side of the coverlet was facing up, one of the signature blocks could still be read. (See the photos of the coverlet John Kaley wove for E. Bross in 1836.)

Almost without exception, these coverlets were woven by men. There was only one documented case of a woman weaver of that time, Edie told me.



© Edie Ross

© Edie Ross

Detail of one of Edie Ross's coverlets (see p. 21)

Personal Notes

Happy Birthday on March 1 to **Arnold Garber, Graham Quisenberry** and **Jeremy Vallianos;** on March 5 to **Travis Raab;** on March 7 to **Janet Garber;** on March 8 to **Anne Marie O'Connor;** on March 10 to **Bob Gauthier;** on March 13 to **Valerie Costas** and **Bonner McAllester;** on March 14 to **Barbara Shea;** on March 17 to **Annabel Edelman;** on March 19 to **Bill Thieriot;** on March 23 to **Carol Edelman;** on March 27 to **Alf Pedersen** and **Ellen Pedersen;** on March 29 to **Roma Foreman;** and on March 31 to **Barbara Gauthier, Diana Lazzarini, Will Marsh,** and **Ray Ward.**

Happy Anniversary on March 9 to **Jerry** and **Giuliana Raab.** And, on March 17, Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone.

I started writing the Personal Notes column in July 1997, and have really enjoyed doing so over the past two and a half years. It was fun passing on your birthday and anniversary greetings, and also sharing in all your news over the years. Now it is time for me to hand the job over to our new Personal Notes Editor, **Debbie Mielke,** who is looking forward to writing this column every month. I look forward to reading her first column in the *News* next month.

Good-bye and thanks to all of you,

— Ann Higgins

Thanks to Claire Mielke

The staff and Board of Directors of the *Monterey News* heartily thank Claire Mielke for her recent help in updating the archives of the *News.*

The *Monterey News* archives are maintained by the Monterey Library. Copies of all back issues, beginning with the first issue in March 1970, are available for reading at the Library.

Contributors

We gratefully acknowledge contributions recently received from:

Noel and Anne Wicke
Matthew Tannenbaum

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Calendar

Tuesday, March 7

Presidential Primary, polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monterey Firehouse (see p. 5).

International folk dancing, 7:30 p.m. at Gould Farm. Led by Karl Finger. Instruction for novice dancers will be provided at beginning of evening. Families welcome! What a great way to start dancing, to expand your abilities, or just to watch and catch the spirit. Suggested Suggested donation: $5 for adults, $2 for children. Call Karl (413-528-2963) or Kim (413-528-1804) for information, directions.

Thursday, March 9, Republican Committee Meeting and Caucus, 7:00 p.m., Monterey Firehouse (see p. 4).

Friday, March 10, Democratic Caucus, 7:00 p.m., Monterey Firehouse (see p. 4).

Saturday, March 11, Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Monterey Firehouse.

Saturday, March 18, *Monterey News* 30th anniversary celebration, 7:00 p.m., Meeting House. An evening of reading, remembering, and refreshments (see p. 3).

Tuesday, March 21

Free blood pressure, 9:00–10:30 a.m., basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

International folk dancing, 7:30 p.m. at Gould Farm. Led by Karl Finger. See information under March 7 above.

Friday, March 24, Special Town Meeting, 7 p.m. at Firehouse (see p. 2).

Saturday, March 25, Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Sarah Gregory Smith. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385.

Vendors Wanted for Annual New Boston Church Benefit

The New Boston Congregational Church is seeking vendors to participate in the annual craft, bake, and plant sale/flea market, which will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2000, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parish Hall, Route 57 in Sandisfield. The day will be topped off by a lunch prepared by the church ladies. Spaces can be reserved inside or outside for $10. Please call 413-258-3341 to rent a space or for more information.

The Observer

January 26—February 25

High temp. (2/24)	59°
Low temp. (1/28)	-5°
Avg. high temp.	32.1°
Avg. low temp.	11.8°
Avg. temp.	22.0°
Snowfall	30.5"
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	4.2"

Precipitation occurred on 21 days.
Barometric pres. data not available.

Lake Garfield Association Eco Tip for March

When fowls foul water
and disturb the peace,
There is really no need
to call the police,
Try to remember,
please don't feed the geese.

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Saturday ..... 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Joe Baker, p. 17; George Emmons, p. 18; Glynis Oliver, pp. 2, 4, 13, 14, 15, 20.

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